

EARLY OR LATE FILED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

CE 96-45

The School District of Haverford Township
OAKMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

50 South Eagle Road • Havertown, PA 19083 • 610-853-5940.

April 29, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 5 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Dear Commissioner Chong,

As an elementary principal in the School District of Haverford Township, I would like to thank you for your support and dedication to education that will ensure Internet connection to every school student in Pennsylvania. This means all schools, including our own, along with the libraries in our communities, will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan guarantees that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet. With that connection, each student will be provided with distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 million a year will address the needs of our schools and, more importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. The inclusion of internal classroom connections at a discount is vital. The plan is essential to prepare students for tomorrow's work force.

Passage of this Act will allow our computer use to connect our students to the world, not only technologically, but personally. We all know thinking globally will be important for the future of our state and our country. Connecting to the world through computers will help our students learn and understand issues on a world-wide basis. Being able to connect with our county library system will also give us access to additional learning materials quickly and easily. Our children's future and the future of every child in Pennsylvania will depend on this program.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

Audrone Meskauskas

Dr. Audrone Meskauskas

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABOVE

CC 96-45

The School District of Haverford Township
HAVERFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

1800 Darby Road • Havertown, PA 19083 • 610-853-5925.

April 29, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 5 1997

Dear Commissioner Chong,

As the middle school principal in the School District of Haverford Township, I would like to thank you for your support and dedication to education that will ensure Internet connection to every school student in Pennsylvania. This means all schools, including our own, along with the libraries in our communities, will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan guarantees that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet. With that connection, each student will be provided with distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 million a year will address the needs of our schools and, more importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. The inclusion of internal classroom connections at a discount is vital. The plan is essential to prepare students for tomorrow's work force.

Passage of this Act will allow our computer use to connect our students to the world, not only technologically, but personally. We all know thinking globally will be important for the future of our state and our country. Connecting to the world through computers will help our students learn and understand issues on a world-wide basis. Being able to connect with our county library system will also give us access to additional learning materials quickly and easily. Our children's future and the future of every child in Pennsylvania will depend on this program.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

Michael Bianco

Michael Bianco

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABOVE

The School District of Haverford Township
CHATHAM PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

100 Allston Road • Havertown, PA 19083 • 610-853-5910.

April 29, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 5 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Chong,

As an elementary principal in the School District of Haverford Township, I would like to thank you for your support and dedication to education that will ensure Internet connection to every school student in Pennsylvania. This means all schools, including our own, along with the libraries in our communities, will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan guarantees that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet. With that connection, each student will be provided with distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 million a year will address the needs of our schools and, more importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. The inclusion of internal classroom connections at a discount is vital. The plan is essential to prepare students for tomorrow's work force.

Passage of this Act will allow our computer use to connect our students to the world, not only technologically, but personally. We all know thinking globally will be important for the future of our state and our country. Connecting to the world through computers will help our students learn and understand issues on a world-wide basis. Being able to connect with our county library system will also give us access to additional learning materials quickly and easily. Our children's future and the future of every child in Pennsylvania will depend on this program.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

Daniel Marsella

Daniel Marsella

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

0

CPI Competition Policy Institute

0096-45
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

May 5, 1997

Chairman Reed E. Hundt
Commissioner James H. Quello
Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Commissioner Susan Ness

RECEIVED

MAY 5 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Mr. Chairman and Commissioners:

The Competition Policy Institute (CPI) urges the Commission to include access charge reductions in its upcoming orders on access charge reform and universal service. In our comments in this docket, we described the need for the Commission to make a "down payment" on access charge reform by *lowering* the amount local exchange carriers are allowed to collect for access services, in addition to restructuring access rates. While "market-based" pressures should reduce access charges over time, the Commission should begin the process with a prescribed reduction.

The purpose of this presentation is to illustrate how access charge reductions of \$2.25 billion can be achieved and incorporated in the Commission's upcoming decision in these matters. We offer three options for reducing the amounts collected for access services and illustrate the effect of each option on the eight largest price cap local exchange carriers.

The three options we recommend below are methods to reduce the amount of revenues the local exchange carriers will collect for access services, independent of how they are collected and independent of the specific details of a plan for universal service support. In other words, **these options may be incorporated into any other proposal for universal service support and access restructuring.** Reducing access revenues in one of the ways we suggest will result in lower revenues to be collected in whatever manner the Commission determines, through increased second-line SLCs, multi-line business charges, long distance rates or other charges. We believe that **CPI's options can be incorporated into Chairman Hundt's proposal for access charge reform:** they simply decrease the revenues that must be collected on top of the per-minute, traffic-sensitive access charges.

- Option 1: Reduce access revenues by lowering access revenues of each LEC by a uniform percentage.
- Option 2: Reduce access revenues by *partially* reinitializing price cap rates and *partially* reducing the revenues currently collected from the Transport Interconnection Charge (TIC).
- Option 3: Reduce access revenues by *partially* reinitializing price cap rates, *partially* reducing the TIC revenues and increasing the price cap X-factor.

No. of Copies rec'd 2
List ABCDE

Here is a description of each of these options; the attached spreadsheets and graphs demonstrate how the reductions work and the relative effect of each option on the eight largest LECs.

Option 1: Reduce access revenues by lowering access revenues of each LEC by a uniform percentage.

While there is debate about *exactly* how much access charges currently exceed economic costs, there is no debate that they are far in excess of such costs. This means that the Commission can reduce access charges across all LECs by a uniform percentage without running the risk of lowering them too much; i.e., without lowering them below economic cost. Since access charges eventually will move much lower when competition disciplines the access market, an initial move in that direction is justified as an appropriate policy leading toward that result.

Based on estimated 1997 LEC access revenues, a reduction of 10.76% will achieve a cumulative reduction of \$2.25 billion among the eight largest LECs. Attachment 1 illustrates the effect on each LEC of such a uniform reduction in access revenues.

Option 2: Reduce access revenues by *partially* reinitializing price cap rates and *partially* reducing the Transport Interconnection Charge (TIC) revenues.

Bell Atlantic, NYNEX and AT&T recommended that the Commission utilize a "triple play" formula to achieve access reductions for each price cap LEC. Some parties observed that this method produces somewhat uneven reductions among the various LECs, depending on how successful the carriers had been under price cap regulation.

CPI's Option 2 is an improvement on this "triple play;" here the reduction is spread more evenly among the LECs. Under this formula, the total access reduction is obtained by adding together i) reductions from *partially* reinitializing price cap rates and ii) reductions from eliminating a percentage of the TIC revenues.

Option 2 illustrates the method by reinitializing rates by 50% of the price cap earnings in excess of 11.25% and eliminating half the TIC revenues. This combination produces a reduction of \$2.26 billion. Attachment 2 shows the effect of this method on the eight largest price cap LECs. (The percentages can be varied so other combinations of these partial reductions are possible.)

Option 3: Reduce access revenues by *partially* reinitializing price cap rates, *partially* reducing the TIC revenues and increasing the price cap X-factor.

A third method to achieve access charge reductions is to incorporate a change in the price cap X-factor along with partial reinitialization and partial elimination of the TIC revenues. This method makes it possible to reduce further the reliance on reinitialization while producing a result

that is more nearly even across the LECs.

Under CPI's Option 3, the total access reduction is obtained by adding together i) reductions from *partially* reinitializing price cap rates; ii) reductions from eliminating a portion of the TIC revenues; and iii) reductions from increasing the price cap X-factor.

Attachment 3 illustrates this method with specific percentages that produce an access reduction of \$2.26 billion. In this example, price cap rates are reinitialized by one-third of the earnings in excess of 11.25%, the TIC is reduced by 44%, and the X-factor is increased from 5.3% to 7.5%. (Again, the percentages can be varied to obtain other combinations.)

Advantages of CPI's Options

There are several advantages to using one of the three options recommended here:

- Any of these options can be incorporated into Chairman Hundt's access reform proposal, as we understand it. Other access restructuring (e.g., shifting per-minute revenues to flat charges) can proceed with lower total revenues being recovered.
- By relying only partly on price cap reinitialization, these proposals avoid the criticism that they are unfair to certain price cap LECs or remove too much of the price cap incentives.
- These options spread the access reductions more evenly among LECs than other methods. Option 1 reduces access revenues by the same percentage for all LECs; Options 2 and 3 base reductions on several factors, but the reductions are greatest for the largest LECs.
- These options produce a reasonable "down payment" on access reform of \$2.25 billion. Since access charges are currently far above economic costs, a reduction of this size (about 10.8%) is a moderate initial movement toward cost-based access charges.

We hope these ideas are useful to the Commission and welcome the opportunity to provide any additional detail the Commission desires.

Sincerely,



COMPETITION POLICY INSTITUTE

Ronald J. Binz, President

Debra R. Berlyn, Executive Director

John Windhausen, Jr., General Counsel

Competition Policy Institute
Access Reduction Down Payment — OPTION 1

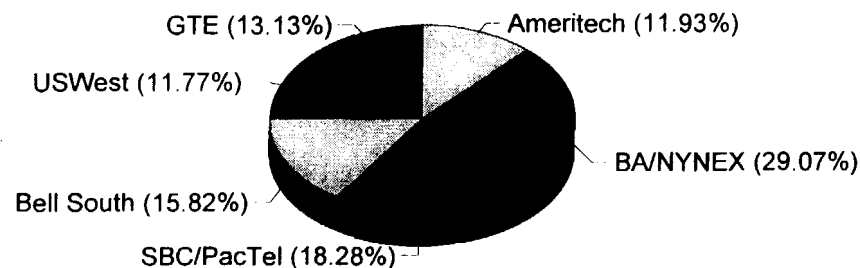
OPTION 1

Access Charge Reduction Formula

For each LEC, total access charge reduction is a percentage decrease in access revenues.

Percentage access revenue reduction	10.76%
Total Reduction (billions)	\$2.250

Shares of Access Reduction
Option 1



	1996 ROI	7/1/97 Acc Rev	Reduction of 10.76%	Total Reduction	Reduction as % of Rev	LEC Share of Total Reduction
Ameritech	18.27%	2495	268	268	10.76%	11.93%
Bell Atlantic	11.31%	2907	313	313	10.76%	13.90%
Bell South	16.24%	3308	356	356	10.76%	15.82%
NYNEX	13.87%	3171	341	341	10.76%	15.16%
Pacific Telesis	17.91%	1754	189	189	10.76%	8.39%
SBC	11.80%	2068	223	223	10.76%	9.89%
USWest	13.57%	2461	265	265	10.76%	11.77%
GTE	17.62%	2746	295	295	10.76%	13.13%
Total		20910	2250	2250	10.76%	100.00%
BA/NYNEX		6078	654	654	10.76%	29.07%
SBC/PacTel		3822	411	411	10.76%	18.28%

Note: Data obtained from BA/NYNEX ex parte presentation of AT&T/BA/NYNEX proposal.

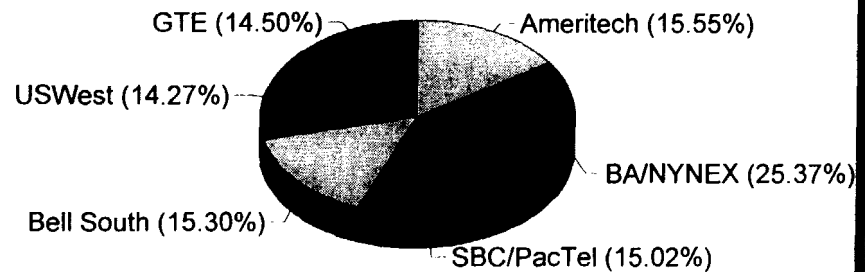
Competition Policy Institute
Access Reduction Down Payment — OPTION 2

OPTION 2
Access Charge Reduction Formula

For each LEC, total access charge reduction is a percentage reduction of earnings in excess of 11.25% plus a percentage reduction in the TIC.

Percent Sharing of Excess Earnings	50.00%
Percent Reduction in TIC	50.00%
Total Reduction (billions)	\$2.263

Shares of Access Reduction
Option 2



	1996 ROI	7/1/97 Acc Rev	Earnings over 11.25%	7/1/97 TIC	Sharing Reduction	TIC Reduction	Total Reduction	Reduction as % of Rev	LEC Share of Total Reduction
Ameritech	18.27%	2495	363	341	181	171	352	14.11%	15.55%
Bell Atlantic	11.31%	2907	5	334	2	167	169	5.83%	7.48%
Bell South	16.24%	3308	404	289	202	145	346	10.47%	15.30%
NYNEX	13.87%	3171	156	654	78	327	405	12.76%	17.88%
Pacific Telesis	17.91%	1754	281	137	140	68	209	11.90%	9.23%
SBC	11.80%	2068	20	242	10	121	131	6.34%	5.79%
USWest	13.57%	2461	152	494	76	247	323	13.12%	14.27%
GTE	17.62%	2746	462	195	231	97	328	11.95%	14.50%
Total		20910	1841	2685	921	1343	2263	10.82%	100.00%
BA/NYNEX		6078	160	988	80	494	574	9.45%	25.37%
SBC/PacTel		3822	301	379	151	189	340	8.89%	15.02%

Note: Data obtained from BA/NYNEX ex parte presentation of AT&T/BA/NYNEX proposal.

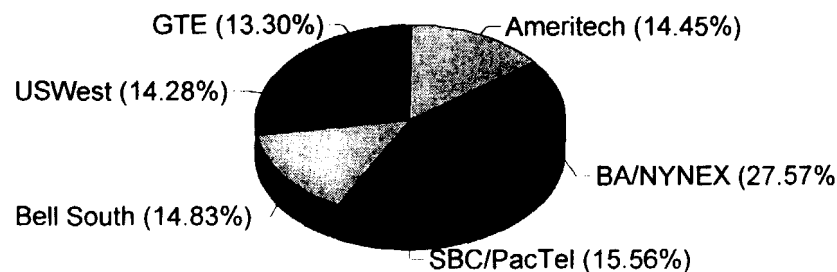
Competition Policy Institute
Access Reduction Down Payment — OPTION 3

Access Charge Reduction Formula

For each LEC, total access charge reduction is a percentage reduction of earnings in excess of 11.25% plus a percentage reduction in the TIC, plus the effect increasing the price cap X-factor.

Percent Sharing of Excess Earnings	33.33%
Percent Reduction in TIC	44.00%
Increase X-factor from 5.3% to:	7.50%
Total Reduction (billions)	\$2.255

**Shares of Access Reduction
Option 3**



	1996 ROI	7/1/97 Acc Rev	Earnings over 11.25%	7/1/97 TIC	Sharing Reduction	TIC Reduction	X-factor Reduction	Total Reduction	Reduction as % of Rev	LEC Share of Reduction
Ameritech	18.27%	2495	363	341	121	150	55	326	13.06%	14.45%
Bell Atlantic	11.31%	2907	5	334	2	147	64	213	7.31%	9.42%
Bell South	16.24%	3308	404	289	135	127	73	335	10.11%	14.83%
NYNEX	13.87%	3171	156	654	52	288	70	409	12.91%	18.15%
Pacific Telesis	17.91%	1754	281	137	94	60	39	192	10.97%	8.53%
SBC	11.80%	2068	20	242	7	106	45	159	7.67%	7.04%
USWest	13.57%	2461	152	494	51	217	54	322	13.09%	14.28%
GTE	17.62%	2746	462	195	154	86	60	300	10.92%	13.30%
Total		20910	1841	2685	614	1182	460	2255	10.79%	100.00%
BA/NYNEX		6078	160	988	53	435	134	622	10.23%	27.57%
SBC/PacTel		3822	301	379	100	167	84	351	9.18%	15.56%

Note: Data obtained from BA/NYNEX ex parte presentation of AT&T/BA/NYNEX proposal.

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: Carlos A. Vazquez or Mai Fee-Vazquez <laloba@usouthal.campus.mci.net>
To: A7.A7(sness)
Date: 5/3/97 10:43pm
Subject: Please adopt recommendation

96-45



Dear Ms. Ness,

As a parent of two young children, one of whom is in elementary school, I strongly urge you to vote in favor of adopting the joint board's recommendation to provide E-rate funding for universal access to technology in our public schools. This fund would decrease the wide-rangeing disparity in information technology resources currently existing in public schools. A student should have equal access to computers and the Internet no matter what his/her socio-economic background is. This fund would truly be a worthy investment in America's future. Sincerely,
 Mai Fee-Vazquez

RECEIVED

MAY 5^{DEM} 1997

Folio

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

No. of Copies rec'd
 List ABCDE

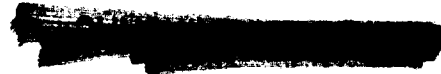
1

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

96-4 5

From: Deborah Kovacs <dkovacs@ultranet.com>
To: A7.A7(sness)
Date: 5/3/97 9:47pm
Subject: e-rate



please support the e-rate

RECEIVED

MAY 5^{DE} 1997

FILED
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABOVE

1

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

96-45

From: John Patrick <patrick@us.ibm.com>
To: A7.A7(sness)
Date: 5/3/97 10:11am
Subject: I am in support of the E-rate provision



I am in support of the E-rate provision of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Let's make it happen.

=====
John R. Patrick
Ridgefield, CT

RECEIVED
MAY 5^{DEM} 1997

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABOVE

1

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

96-45

From: <SandSCheng@aol.com>
To: A7.A7(sness)
Date: 5/3/97 12:15am
Subject: Joint Board Recommendations

I would like to see the school systems be allowed to have discounts toward upgraded telecommunications. I do however, disagree that each school should receive a discount based on the school's financial status. If this does in fact raise prices for consumers, I am against it too. Education is the key to the future and technology is rapidly increasing. Please do not vote the "politically" correct vote, but that which would benefit society.

Michelle Cheng
9180 Morning Walk Lane #202
Cordova, TN 38018
901-373-6045

RECEIVED

MAY 5^{DEM} 1997FBI - MEMPHIS
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

DUCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

96-45

From: Peter Rohmann <prohmann@postoffice.worldnet.att.net>
To: A7.A7(sness)
Date: 5/2/97 12:20am
Subject: (no subject)

MAY 8 1997

Dear Ms. Ness,

As a taxpayer and concerned person I strongly urge you and the FCC to NOT impose rules that would force School and Library discounts on Internet Service Providers.

Forcing School and Library discounts on ISPs runs counter to "The mission of this independent government agency is to encourage competition in all communications markets and to protect the public interest."

Schools and Libraries are ALREADY funded by tax dollars. Forcing discounts for these entities upon ISPs amounts to imposing a further tax upon ISPs and, by extension, upon the clients of these ISPs.

If I am not mistaken the power to levy taxes rests SOLELY with CONGRESS. Please DO NOT impose School and Library Discounts upon ISPs!!!

Yours Truly,

Peter Rohmann

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABOVE

1

EX PARTE OR LATE COPY ORIGINAL

96-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

From: Sherryl Cobb <scobb@enterprise.k12.ca.us>
To: A7.A7(sness)
Date: 5/5/97 12:45am

I am writing to ask you to please support the Joint Board's recommendation to create the \$2.25 billion universal access fund for school technology. It is very important for our children to be kept abreast of the present and future technology. Thank you.

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABOVE

1

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL 96-45

From: Brian J. Frankovich <bsiags@hotmail.com>
To: A7.A7(sness)
Date: 5/4/97 10:54pm
Subject: Adopt! Thank you!!

Please adopt the joint commission's request to fund our school's libraries and classrooms with the necessary funds to help us all have a chance to have internet access at an affordable rate. Thanks for your consideration in helping all our nation's children have an equal opportunity to share in this super resource.

Thank you,

Brian Frankovich, Principal
Blessed Sacrament School
Midland, MI 48642

RECEIVED
MAY 5th 1997

No. of Copies rec'd 1
List ABCDE

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

96-45

From: <river@delrio.com>
To: A7.A7(SNESS)
Date: 5/5/97 3:07pm
Subject: Universal Service TAX



Dear Commissioner Susan Ness,

I am opposed to this TAX because I am, as most Americans, taxed for virtually breathing the air I breath. If you are just looking for more money, please try cutting your own budgets by eliminating the obvious and well known waste.

Carl Huber

RECEIVED
MAY 5^{DEM} 1997
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice



The Voice of Rural Telecommunications

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

MAY 5 1997

April 29, 1997

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room, 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45/and
CC Docket No. 96-262

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As the time for resolution of the crucial Universal Service and Access Reform Dockets approaches, the Rural Telephone Coalition (RTC) wishes to respond to the State Members' Second Report on the Use of Cost Proxy Models. In their report the State Members evaluate the models and make comments on the basis of the criteria in the Recommended Decision.

The RTC agrees with the following points in the State Members Report:

1 The State Members conclude that both the Benchmark Cost Proxy Model (BCPM) and Hatfield models have failed several facets of criterion seven, one of the measures the Joint Board recommended to evaluate the proxy models. They specifically conclude that critical input data have not been verified, and outputs have not been demonstrated to be plausible. The RTC agrees and has previously filed comments stating that any proxy model that is chosen must be proven to predict that which it purports to predict. The RTC wishes to point out, however, that more than plausibility of outputs is required. Plausibility implies only the possibility of adequate support rather than proof of verity and accuracy of prediction, requirements in the critical analysis that the models must involve.¹

¹ See RTC Comments at 4-5, CC Docket No. 96-45, December 19, 1996 where we explained that the word *plausible* is insufficiently rigorous to describe the measure of scrutiny that is needed to gauge the accuracy of the results produced by the proposed models. The first given meaning of *plausible* in *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary* is: 1. *superficially fair, reasonable, or valuable, but often specious <a ~ pretext>.*" (emphasis added)

2. The State Members recommend a cost-based benchmark instead of one that is based on national average revenues. The RTC agrees that a cost based model is more appropriate and has previously made the point that the recommended benchmark based on nationwide average LEC revenues for local exchange, access and “discretionary” services misses the mark as an identifier of the level of high cost support which Section 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 requires. A revenue benchmark (a) irrationally compares backward looking revenues with hypothetical forward looking costs, (b) uses historic revenues in a radically changing regulatory environment to identify the revenue streams an ILEC can “expect” in the future, and (c) has no discernable bearing on whether federal support will pass statutory muster as “sufficient,” “predictable” and “specific.”²

Despite our agreement with these two aspects of the State Members’ Report, the RTC wishes to point out that it disagrees with the Report in some respects. The Report recommends an overall rate of return of 10.05 as an input value for the BCPM, which it would then recommend as the vehicle to be perfected. It also recommends changes which extend the depreciation lives used in the BCPM model. The RTC disagrees with both of these recommendations. Regardless of what model is chosen, the proper overall rate of return is the prescribed interstate rate of return. That return properly accounts for the risks that are included in the policy making decision that a prescription proceeding involves. There is no factual or legal basis upon which any model should assume or factor into its input a rate of return other than this legally authorized rate established by the Commission in a proceeding providing ample opportunity for public participation under the Administrative Procedures Act.

² *RTC comments at 23-24, December 19, 1996*

Similarly, the extension of depreciation lives to the suggested parameters is unjustified. Instead, of using extended lives, the models should use shorter lives as inputs. The proponents of forward looking cost models assert that telecommunications is a declining cost industry. To be consistent, any model which purports to be forward looking and accepts that premise should therefore use some form of accelerated depreciation. It is also clear that the pace of technology change is increasing and that a competitive environment necessarily means shorter lives. Accordingly, accelerated depreciation is necessary to model risk properly for high cost companies that will be required to operate in a competitive environment and at the same time to meet universal service obligations that necessitate adequate recovery of their legitimate costs.

Respectfully submitted,
THE RURAL TELEPHONE COALITION

NRTA

NTCA

OPASTCO

By: Margot S. Humphrey
Margot Smiley Humphrey

By: David Cosson
David Cosson

By: Lisa Zaina
Lisa M. Zaina

Koteen & Naftalin, LLP
1150 Connecticut Ave., NW
Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 467-5700

2626 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20037

(202) 298-2300

21 Dupont Circle, NW
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 659-5990

cc: Chairman Reed E. Hundt
Commissioner James H. Quello
Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Commissioner Susan Ness
Mr. James Colthrop
Mr. Daniel Gonzalez
Mr. James Casserly
Mr. Thomas Boasberg
Ms. Regina M. Keeny
Mr. A. Richard Metzger, Jr.
Ms. Kathleen B. Levitz
Mr. John Nakahata
Mr. Joseph Farrell
Mr. James D. Schlichting
Mr. Richard K. Welch

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

May 1, 1997

Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20054

RECEIVED

MAY 5 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20541

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act - through its Universal Service Fund provisions - mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century. As of now our school system is unable to afford Internet capabilities to extend access to each classroom. Our local telephone company has been reluctant to give our schools reduced rates. We would like for our students to have the same opportunities that are afforded to students in more affluent areas. Without the passage of the Telecommunications Act, there is very little hope that we will ever be able to provide this opportunity.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to the schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABOVE

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

CC 96-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

May 1, 1997

Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20054

MAY 5 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20541

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act - through its Universal Service Fund provisions - mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century. As of now our school system is unable to afford Internet capabilities to extend access to each classroom. Our local telephone company has been reluctant to give our schools reduced rates. We would like for our students to have the same opportunities that are afforded to students in more affluent areas. Without the passage of the Telecommunications Act, there is very little hope that we will ever be able to provide this opportunity.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to the schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

Maria M. McRae

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABOVE

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

CC96-45

CITY OF OAKLAND



OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY • 125 - 14TH STREET • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED
May 5, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 5 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

FCC Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FAX

Dear Commissioner Chong:

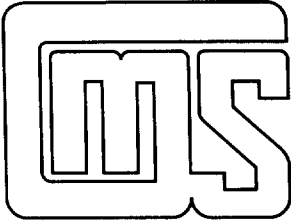
This letter is to ask for your support for the recommendations of the Federal-State Joint Board to be considered on May 7th. Your vote would support discounts ranging from 20-90% on telecommunication service for schools and public libraries under the universal service rules of the Federal Communications Commission. As a result it would be less costly for us to provide services which are critically needed to meet the informational needs of the people in Oakland. Too many of our residents do not have access to new technology and the skills and information necessary to participate in a more information-based economy.

Thank you for any consideration that you can give to us.

Sincerely,

Billie Dancy
Director of Library Services

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE



Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education
 Post Office Box 30035
 Charlotte, North Carolina 28230-0035
 Telephone (704) 379-7141

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Susan Burgess, Chairperson
 Arthur Griffin Jr., Vice Chairperson
 George R. Dunlap
 Lindalyn Kakadelis
 John W. Lassiter
 Pamela R. Mange
 Samuel L. Reid
 John A. Tate III
 Louise S. Woods

May 1, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
 Federal Communications Commission
 1919 M Street NW, Room 844
 Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System works hard to assure that all 93,000 children in Mecklenburg County receive the finest education possible and to prepare them for their future life and work in the 21st century. Classroom connection to the internet is essential for their preparation for the information age.

I urge you to support the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan. This will enable even the poorest schools the opportunity to connect to the internet and provide distance-learning opportunities allowing equity in American education.

Thank you for your service to our nation, especially to our students, our future and number one priority.

Sincerely,

Susan Burgess

Susan Burgess

No. of Copies rec'd _____
 List ABCDE _____

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

CC 96-48

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

MAY 5 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20541

Healthcare You Can Trust

May 5, 1997

Commissioner Rachelle Chong
Via Facsimile

Dear Commissioner Chong:

As a health care provider serving rural communities, we request your support of universal service for Tele communications that will make Tele medicine affordable. The FCC must make rates comparable between urban and rural areas. In this way we can lessen the difference between the levels of services available in urban areas and those in rural areas.

The availability of health care resources and access to medical professionals should not be hindered by geographic distances. By lowering or even subsidizing health related Tele communications costs, the availability of Tele medicine will improve the quality of care and reduce the costs of such care in rural areas.

Thank you for your support and assistance.

Sincerely,

John P. Galati
President & C.E.O.

JPG/pd

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

Finger Lakes
Community Cancer Center
Six Coulter Road
Clifton Springs, New York
14432-1187
(315) 462-9561

Finger Lakes
Breast Care
4 Coulter Road
Clifton Springs, New York
14432
(315) 462-9561

Canal Park
Family Medicine
555 West Main Street
Palmyra, New York
14522
(315) 597-5200

Lyons Diagnostic &
Treatment Center
122 Broad Street
Lyons, New York
14489-1042
(315) 846-1812

Seneca Falls
Health Center
Two Fall Street
Seneca Falls, New York
13148-1429
(315) 562-0043

Addictions
Recovery Center
11 North Street
Canandaigua, New York
14424-1023
(716) 394-0530